

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6068

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMCONSUL QUEBEC BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJECT: QUEBEC LIBERAL PARTY LEADERSHIP CAMPAIGN OPENS

WITH GARNEAU-RYAN CONFRONTATION

1. ONLY ANNOUNCED CANDIDATES FOR QUEBEC LIBERAL PARTY  
LEADERSHIP, CLAUDE RYAN, FORMER EDITOR OF LE DEVOIR,  
AND RAYMOND GARNEAU, FORMER FINANCE MINISTER IN BOURASSA  
GOVERNMENT, MET AT FIRST PUBLIC CONFRONTATION JANUARY 22  
IN HULL, QUEBEC. MEETING WAS FIRST OF NINE REGIONAL  
SESSIONS LEADING UP TO LEADERSHIP CONVENTION APRIL 14-15  
IN QUEBEC CITY.

2. ON SUBSTANCE, DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TWO CANDIDATES WAS  
NOT GREAT. BOTH ADVOCATED CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM AS  
SOLUTION TO UNITY CRISIS AND EACH DEFENDED RIGHTS OF  
MINORITY LANGUAGE GROUPS IN QUEBEC. RYAN CHARGED THAT  
PARTI QUEBECOIS (PQ) ELECTION WAS DIRECT RESULT OF LOSS OF  
CONFIDENCE IN QUEBEC LIBERAL PARTY. HE STRESSED THAT HE  
COULD FILL LEADERSHIP VACUUM AND SUCCESSFULLY LEAD LIBERAL  
FORCES IN REFERENDUM AND PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS. GARNEAU,  
BY CONTRAST, STRESSED HIS LONG TIES WITH LIBERAL PARTY

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AND HIS PREVIOUS CABINET EXPERIENCE. GARNEAU TACTIC  
WAS OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO HIGHLIGHT RYAN'S LACK OF POLITI-  
CAL EXPERIENCE AND SOLID LIBERAL CREDENTIALS.

3. STYLE RATHER THAN SUBSTANCE PROVIDED MAIN CONTRAST.  
GARNEAU, WHO IS 43, PRESENTED IMAGE OF AGGRESSIVE AND EX-  
PERIENCED YOUNG POLITICIAN AS HE LEVELLED TWO-FISTED

ATTACK ON PQ. RYAN PROJECTED SERIOUS, AUSTERE IMAGE WITH  
MORE PHILOSOPHICAL SPEECH CONTENT.

4. COMMENT: AUDIENCE OF 600-700 CLEARLY FAVORED RYAN  
AND REPEATEDLY INTERRUPTED HIS SPEECH WITH OVATIONS.  
AUDIENCE REACTION WAS RATHER SURPRISING SINCE RYAN READ  
MOST OF SPEECH WITH NO EFFORT AT HISTRIONICS. RYAN'S  
POPULARITY MAY HAVE BEEN DUE TO UNUSUAL COMPOSITION OF  
THIS AUDIENCE. HULL IS LOCATED IN NATIONAL CAPITAL  
REGION WHERE FEDERALISM IS QUITE STRONG, EVEN AMONG  
FRANCOPHONES, AND ELECTORATE IS GENERALLY WELL-EDUCATED.  
IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, IN EMBASSY VIEW, WHETHER RYAN  
WILL MAINTAIN AUDIENCE ENTHUSIASM IN RURAL AND/OR WORKING  
CLASS AREAS OF QUEBEC. ENDERS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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